

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method for prion decontamination of an entity comprising (i) contacting said entity with a detergent, (ii) contacting said entity with a protease, and optionally (iii) autoclaving said entity.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the protease is selected from a group consisting of protease and peptidase enzymes belonging to class E. C. 3.4.-.- as defined by the Nomenclature Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the protease is selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.

4. (original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the protease is pronase.

5. (original) A method according to claim 3 wherein the protease is ProteinaseK.

6. (original) A method for prion decontamination comprising (i) contacting an entity to be decontaminated with a detergent, (ii) contacting said entity with a first protease, (iii) contacting said entity with a second protease, and optionally (iv) autoclaving said entity.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6 wherein the first and second proteases are selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.

8. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is pronase and the second protease is papain.

9. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is ProteinaseK and the second protease is pronase.

10. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the first protease is pronase and the second protease is ProteinaseK.

11. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the detergent is an ionic detergent.

12. (original) A method according to claim 11 wherein the detergent is an anionic detergent.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the detergent is SDS.

14. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1 wherein said entity comprises a surface.

15. (original) A method according to claim 14 wherein said surface is a surface of a medical instrument.

16. (currently amended) A method according to claim 14 ~~or claim 15~~ wherein said surface comprises metal.

17. (original) A method according to claim 16 wherein said metal is steel.

18. (original) A kit comprising detergent and a protease selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.

19. (original) A kit according to claim 18 comprising two or more said proteases.

20. (currently amended) A kit according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~ wherein said detergent is SDS

21. (original) A composition comprising an ionic detergent and one or more proteases selected from the group consisting of ProteinaseK, papain, pronase, and bromelain.

22. (original) A composition according to claim 21 comprising two or more said proteases.

23. (currently amended) A composition according to claim 21 ~~or 22~~ wherein said detergent is SDS.

24. (new) A method according to claim 6 wherein the detergent is an ionic detergent.

25. (new) A method according to claim 15 wherein said surface comprises metal.

26. (new) A kit according to claim 19 wherein said detergent is SDS

27. (new) A composition according to claim 22 wherein said detergent is
SDS.